

REMARKS

Election of Species Requirement

The Election of Species Requirement that was mailed on May 5, 2004, has been received and reviewed.

Three species of invention have been identified:

Species I: Figure 4;

Species II: Figure 5; and

Species III: Figure 8.

Species I, as shown in Figure 4, is a circuit board 10, with recessed areas 24' adjacent to a portion of the periphery of a die-attach location 20.

Species II, as shown in Figure 5, is a solder mask 30 for use on a surface of a circuit board, such as circuit board 10. The solder mask 30 includes a plurality of dams 46 that are configured to laterally surround corresponding terminals, i.e., terminals 26 of circuit board 10. Solder mask 30 may also include a plurality of device-securing regions 40 to which semiconductor devices may be secured.

Species III, as shown by Figure 8, is an exemplary circuit board assembly which includes the circuit board in Figure 4, and the solder mask in Figure 5. Applicants assert that species III is a combination of species I and II, and, as such, claims that read on either species I or II also read on species III.

Applicants assert in the Election of Species Requirement that claims 1, 10-14, and 23-29 read on the invention of Species I, while claims 1-22 read on the invention of Species II, and claims 1-29 read on the invention of Species III.

An election is hereby made, without traverse, to prosecute the invention of Species III. Moreover, it is submitted that claims 1 and 10-14, are generic claims as reading on each of Species I, II, and III. See MPEP 806.04(e). Once a generic claim is allowed, all of the claims drawn to the species in addition to the elected species which include all the limitation of the generic claim will ordinarily be obviously allowable in view of the allowance of the generic claim. See MPEP 806.04(d)

Previously Submitted Information Disclosure Statements

Please note that an Information Disclosure Statement was filed in the above-referenced application on September 11, 2003, and a Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement was filed on January 9, 2004 but that initialed copies of the Form PTO-1449s that accompanied the Information Disclosure Statements have not yet been returned to the undersigned attorney. It is respectfully requested that the information cited in the Information Disclosure Statements and listed on the Form PTO-1449s be considered and made of record in the above-referenced application and that initialed copies of the Form PTO-1449s evidencing such consideration be returned to the undersigned attorney.

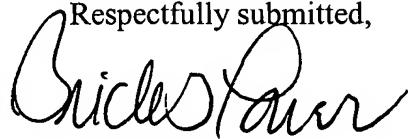
Preliminary Amendment

Applicants' undersigned attorney notes the filing herein of a Preliminary Amendment on November 7, 2003, which filing was not acknowledged in the outstanding Office Action. Should the Preliminary Amendment have failed for some reason to have been entered in the Office file, Applicants' undersigned attorney will be happy to have a true copy thereof hand-delivered to the Examiner.

CONCLUSION

In view of the election of Species III, it is respectfully requested that each of claims 1-29 be considered on the merits. If questions remain after consideration of the foregoing, the Office is kindly requested to contact applicants' attorney at the address or telephone number given herein.

Respectfully submitted,



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